

Message Text

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PAGE 01 USUN N 02512 161812Z

ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 ARA-14 EA-12 NEA-11

SSO-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00 ICAE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-05 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15

HA-05 /118 W

-----104321 161818Z /47

O 161810Z JUN 78 ZFF-4

FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 2078

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN NIACT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON NIACT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA NIACT IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY GABORONE IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LAGOS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS USUN NEW YORK 02512

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

LONDON PLEASE PASS TO SECRETARY'S PARTY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PORG, SF, WA

SUBJECT: NAMIBIA: WESTERN FIVE PRESS STATEMENT ON

- REGISTRATION OF VOTERS

REF: A) CAPE TOWN 1200, B) USUN 2305

1. IN RESPONSE TO THE ISSUANCE BY SOUTH AFRICA OF THE

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PAGE 02 USUN N 02512 161812Z

PROCLAMATION (REF A) PROVIDING FOR THE REGISTRATION
OF VOTERS IN NAMIBIA, THE CONTACT GROUP HAS AGREED ON THE
FOLLOWING WESTERN FIVE PUBLIC STATEMENT. THE STATEMENT
IS BEING ISSUED BY THE DEPARTMENT TODAY (JUNE 16) ON
BEHALF OF THE FIVE AND WILL ALSO BE ISSUED IN OTHER
CAPITALS OF THE FIVE. THE STATEMENT IS SUBSTANTIVELY
IDENTICAL TO THE DRAFT PRESS STATEMENT (REF B) PREVIOUSLY

APPROVED BY THE FIVE; ONLY MINOR REVISIONS OF
DRAFTING HAVE BEEN MADE. FOLLOWING IS PUBLIC STATEMENT:

BEGIN TEXT:

THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT, THROUGH THE ADMINISTRATOR
GENERAL OF NAMIBIA, HAS ISSUED A PROCLAMATION PROVIDING
FOR THE REGISTRATION OF VOTERS IN NAMIBIA. IN ANY
POLITICAL PROCESS THE PROCEDURE BY WHICH VOTERS ARE
REGISTERED IS A CRUCIAL AND SENSITIVE ONE. THIS IS
ALL THE MORE TRUE IN AN AREA OF INTERNATIONAL CONTEN-
TION.

THE PROPOSAL WHICH OUR GOVERNMENTS HAVE PUT FORWARD FOR
A SETTLEMENT IN NAMIBIA, STATES SPECIFICALLY THAT "THE
UNITED NATIONS SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE WILL HAVE
TO SATISFY HIMSELF AT EACH STAGE AS TO THE
FAIRNESS AND APPROPRIATENESS OF ALL MEASURES AFFECTING THE
POLITICAL PROCESS AT ALL LEVELS OF ADMINISTRATION BEFORE
SUCH MEASURES TAKE EFFECT". IN ADDITION, THE PROPOSAL
SPECIFICALLY STATES THAT THE PROPER REGISTRATION OF
VOTERS WILL "HAVE TO BE CONDUCTED TO THE SATISFACTION OF
THE SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE." WE HAD ALREADY INFORMED THE
SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT THAT THIS ACTION WOULD IN OUR
VIEW NOT BE VALID IF CARRIED OUT UNILATERALLY. A
PROCESS OF REGISTRATION IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROPOSAL
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PAGE 03 USUN N 02512 161812Z

WILL BE REQUIRED. SOUTH AFRICA ACCEPTED OUR FIVE
GOVERNMENTS' PROPOSAL FOR A SETTLEMENT ON APRIL 25. .
CONSIDERABLE PROGRESS HAD BEEN MADE TOWARDS GENERAL AGREE-
MENT ON OUR PROPOSAL PRIOR TO SOUTH AFRICA'S ARMED
INCURSION OF ANGOLA ON MAY 4. THAT ACTION INEVITABLY
CAUSED A DELAY. WE CONTINUE TO BELIEVE THAT THE PROPOSAL
WHICH WE HAVE PUT FORWARD REPRESENTS THE BEST AVAILABLE
SOLUTION TO THE NAMIBIAN QUESTION. OUR FIVE GOVERNMENTS
ARE CONTINUING THEIR EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE AN INTERNATIONALLY
ACCEPTABLE SETTLEMENT IN NAMIBIA. FOLLOWING THE RECENT
MEETING OF THE AFRICAN FRONTLINE STATES IN LUANDS, WE
EXPECT THE EARLY RESUMPTION OF OUR DISCUSSIONS WITH
SWAPO AIMED AT ACHIEVING ACCEPTANCE OF OUR PROPOSAL. IN
THE MEANTIME, WE URGE THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT,
AS WE HAVE URGED SWAPO, TO REFRAIN FROM ACTIONS WHICH
WILL FURTHER COMPLICATE OUR EFFORTS.

END TEXT.

FYI: WE DELIBERATELY STATED THAT SOUTH AFRICA, THROUGH
THE ADMINISTRATOR GENERAL, HAD ISSUED THE PROCLAMATION,
BECAUSE WE CONTINUE TO HOLD SOUTH AFRICA RESPONSIBLE

FOR THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE TERRITORY. END FYI.

2. FOR AFRICAN ADDRESSEES: THE CANADIANS HAVE ASKED
THAT YOU INFORM YOUR CANADIAN COLLEAGUES OF THE ABOVE.
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